



**STRENGTHENING NURSES.  
EMPOWERING VETERANS.**

47595 Watkins Island Square  
Sterling, VA 20165  
Phone: (703) 444-5587  
Fax: (703) 444-5597  
[www.vanurse.org](http://www.vanurse.org)

January 19, 2017

The Honorable Johnny Isakson  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
412 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Isakson:

On behalf of the over 3,000 members of the Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA), I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

NOVA is a professional nursing organization for nurses employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. As nurses, who are often the first face a veteran sees, we are committed to enhancing access, coordinating care and improving the healthcare at VA. With this in mind, we stand ready to work with you and your staff to improve how VA delivers care for America's heroes. We believe that preserving an integrated health care community designed to put veterans first must include VA. It is VA care that veterans overwhelmingly prefer and deserve.

Again, congratulations on your appointment and we look forward to collaborating with you and your staff on critical issues facing VA and the veterans we serve.

Sincerely,

Sharon A. Johnson, MSN, RN  
President  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA)

---

**OFFICERS:** **President:** SHARON A. JOHNSON, MSN, RN, VA Maryland Health Care System **Vice-President:** THELMA ROACH-SERRY, BSN, RN, NE-BC, Hunter Holmes McGuire VAMC  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** KELLY SKINNER, MSN, RN, CRRN, CFCN, WCC, NP-C, GNP-BC, VA Boston Health Care System **Membership Secretary:** TARYN-JANAE WILCOX-OLSON, MHS, RN, VA Black Hills Health Care System  
**Immediate Past President:** LARRY LEMOS, DNP, MHA, RN, GCNS-BC, NE-BC, VA Long Beach Health Care System **DIRECTORS:** TERESA ACOSTA, DNP, MSN, RN, El Paso VA Health Care System  
CARMEN CONCEPCION, MSN, MHA, RN, VA San Diego Health Care System NANCY ELLIOTT, MSN, RN-BC, Lebanon VAMC HOLLY FRANCIS, MSN, RN, Clement J. Zablocki VAMC  
RUTH HOLMES, MSA, BSN, RN, Office of the Medical Inspector VA Central Office RONALD NARDI, PMHCNS-BC, APRN, VA Connecticut Health Care System  
**Ex-Officio:** CECILIA MCVEY, BSN, MHA, CNA, VA Boston Health Care System **NOVA NATIONAL OFFICE:** Executive Director: Susan H. Dove